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NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS
NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENOOTSAP VAN PLANTKUNDIGES

UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE ORANJE-VRYSTAAT, INSTITUUT VIR OMGEWINGSWETENSKAPPE (I.V.O.): Talle ekostelsels in Suid-Afrika word deur die vinnige ontwikkeling van menslike bedrywighede en snelstygende bevolkingsgetalle bedreig. Dit noodsaak die daarstelling van wetenskaplike feite vir besluitneming om natuurlike hulpbronne optimaal te gebruik en die natuurlike omgewing so goed as moontlik te beskerm. Gedagtig aan hierdie probleme doen I.V.O. navorsing in 'n aantal gebiede wat vir die land van groot belang mag wees.

Limnologiese navorsing, in samewerking met ander departemente aan die U.O.V.S., het die afgelope paar jaar sentreer om die invloed van gesuspendeerde slijk op die fisiese, chemiese en biologiese eienskappe van 'n vlak, troebel dam. 'n Aantal verhandelings en navorsingspublikasies is reeds afgehandel en 'n sintese van die eerste fase van die navorsing word tans opgestel. Daarbenewens is of word daar ook projeksies gemaak van die invloed van bestaande en beplande ontwikkeling in belangrike opvanggebiede (Olifantsrivier, Transvaal en Modderrivier, O.V.S.) op die huidige en toekomstige waterkwaliteite. 'n Studie van Swartwaterdam, Qwa-Qwa, het ook inligting verskaf oor alternatiewe gebruike van die dam in die toekoms.

Om by te dra tot omgewingsbewaring het die navorsing van die Biologiese Produksiestelselsgroep sentreer op die moontlikhede om bakterieë, alge en/of vis in sekere uitvloeisels te produseer. Belangrike bevindings is ten opsigte van die moontlike benutting en suiwering van brouery-uitvloeisels, die uitvloeisels van die inmaakbedryf, afvalwater van beesvetmestingstelsels en varkboerdery, en selfs die gebruik van afval-koolsuurgas uit fermentasiebedrywe, gemaak.

Die voortsetting van die afgelope 30 jaar se palinologiese navorsing het verder tot die kennis oor die paleoklimaat van suidelike Afrika bygedra. Benewens studies in die Namib, Kalahari, Noordkaap, O.V.S. en Transvaal, het studies in die Suid-wes Kaap tot nuwe insigte oor die plantegroei van die Tersier geleid. Talle publikasies is geproduseer.

Die belang van grasveld as 'n belangrike bioom in Suid-Afrika het tot studies

oor die produksie en benutting van plante in die Willem Pretorius-wildtuin, asook outekologiese aspekte van grasse gelei.

Die navorsing oor die onversteurde (deur die mens) Marioneiland het benewens voortsetting van plantekologiese, palinologiese en stikstofsiklussudies, ook uitgebrei na aspekte van die ontbinders op die eiland. Talle publikasies, insluitende 'n monografie, het die lig gesien.

Personeel van die Instituut het in die studeleiding van 'n aantal voltooide M.Sc.- of Ph.D.-grade in die afgelope aantal jare opgetree. Daarbenewens het Instituutpersoneel ook 'n belangrike aandeel in die aanbieding van 'n B.Sc. (Hons.)-kursus in Limnologie aan die U.O.V.S. gehad.

Die senior deelnemende personeellede in die verskillende aktiwiteit was of is:

Limnologie: Prof. D.F. Toerien, dr. J.U. Grobbelaar, dr. I.G. Gaigher, mnr. P. Stegmann, en mnr. D.C. Grobler.

Biologiese Produksiestelsels:

Prof. D.F. Toerien, dr. J.U. Grobbelaar, dr. R.D. Walmsley, dr. I.G. Gaigher en mnr. S.A. Mitchell.

Palinologie: Prof. J.A. Coetzee, prof. E.M. van Zinderen Bakker en dr. L. Scott.

Plantekologie: Dr. H.G. Wiltshire.

Marioneiland-navorsing: mnr. V.R. Smith.

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA: Prof. N. Grobbelaar het die 21ste Algemene Vergadering van die Internasionale Unie van Biologiese Wetenskappe as lid van die Unie se Uitvoerende Komitee bygewoon. Die vergadering het in die Carleton Universiteit in Ottawa, Kanada, vanaf 22 tot 27 Augustus 1982 plaasgevind. Gedurende die Kongres moes hy ook as voorsitter van die Finansies en Ouditkomitee van die I.U.B.W. optree wat o.a. belas was met die uitwerk van nuwe ledegelde aangesien die ledegelde vir die afgelope ses jaar konstant was. Hy is tydens die vergadering vir 'n verdere termyn van drie jaar as lid van die I.U.B.W. se Uitvoerende Komitee herkies.

Op hierdie Ottawa-Kongres is 'n belangrike besluit rakende die I.U.B.W. se struktuur geneem. Lidverenigings sal nie meer formeel in afdelings soos Plantkunde, Dierkunde, ens. gegroepeer word nie, maar dit behoort nie te verhoed dat daar steeds elke ses jaar 'n Internasionale Botaniese Kongres, soos in die verlede, gehou sal word nie.

Op uitnodiging van dr. C.F. Gabers, President van die W.N.N.R. wat die Suid-Afrikaanse Afvaardiging na die 19e Algemene Vergadering van die Internasionale Raad van Wetenskaplike Unies (I.R.W.A.) gelei het, het prof. N. Grobbelaar die vergadering van 13 tot 17 September 1982 in Cambridge, Engeland bygewoon. Afgesien van die gewone sake wat daar behandel is, was die toelating van Kommunistiese China sonder die uitskop van Taiwan 'n netelige saak wat na 'n langdurige gekoukus uiteindelik suksesvol deurgevoer is. Die verbod wat Australië in Augustus vanjaar op die bywoning van Russiese afgevaardigdes na die Kongres van die Internasionale Unie vir Biochemie geplaas het toe dit in Perth, Australië gehou is, het ook heelwat tyd in beslag geneem omdat dié optrede van Australië in 'n baie ernstige lig gesien is.

Prof. N. Grobbelaar is vir 'n verdere termyn van drie jaar deur die Minister van Landbou op sy Adviesraad oor Plantkundige aangeleenthede aangestel.

Op 'n vergadering van die Raad vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies wat op 12 Augustus 1982 plaasgevind het, is prof. N. Grobbelaar tot die Uitvoerende Komitee van hierdie Raad verkies.

UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE ORANJE-VRYSTAAT: Verskeie buitelandse besoekers het die Universiteit hierdie jaar besoek.

Prof. K.W. Butzer, van die Universiteit van Chicago het die die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat gedurende Februarie en Maart besoek. Hy is 'n bekende navorser op die gebied van geomorfologie en argeologie en het veral baie navorsing in Noord-, Oos- en Suid-Afrika gedoen. Gedurende die besoek het hy saam met dr. L. Scott, palinoloog van die Instituut vir Omgewingswetenskappe 'n reeks kwartêr-afsettings in die Vrystaat en N.W. Kaap besoek en bestudeer. Die werk staan in verband met palaeoekologiese rekonstruksie van die gebied gedurende die Pleistoseen en Holoseen. Prof. Butzer het ook 'n lesing met die tital "A palaeoclimatic prognosis for CO₂-induced climatic change during the 21st century" aan die U.O.V.S. gelewer.

Prof. Paul Müller, President van die Universiteit van Saarland, Saarbrücken, West-Duitsland het Bloemfontein vir twee dae besoek tydens sy verblyf van agt weke in die Republiek. Prof. Müller, 'n spesialis in die vakgebied Biogeografie en op die gebied van Natuurbewaring, is 'n uitstaande wetenskaplike met 145 wetenskaplike publikasies (insluitende agt boeke) tot sy krediet. Tydens sy verblyf in Bloemfontein het hy vrugbare samesprekings gehad met personeellede van die Departement Plantkunde en Instituut vir Omgewingswetenskappe. Hy het ook twee uitstappies in die O.V.S. onderneem. Saam met dr. P. Keulder van die Departement

Plantkunde, en prof. J.S. le Roux van Aardrykskunde het hy Wurasdam besoek en saam met proff. E.M. van Zinderen Bakker en J. Coetzee Florisbad. By Florisbad het hy die geleentheid gehad om met die paleontoloog, dr. Ron Clark same-sprekings te voer. Die groep het ook Soetdoring, 'n nuwe wildreservaat besoek. As 'n persoon met 'n sterk ornitologiese belangstelling, het hy tydens beide besoeke besondere aandag aan die voëllewe van hierdie gebiede getoon. Prof. Müller het ook 'n lesing vir die S.A.G.P.-O.V.S.-tak gelewer, getiteld "Methods of ecotoxicology evaluation".

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS: The National Botanic Gardens of South Africa was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Environment Affairs on 1 November 1980, as part of the nationalisation of the Civil Service. The institution now falls under the Directorate of Forestry of the latter Department.

Kirstenbosch

A total of 45 800 packets of seed was sent to members of the Botanical Society in 1981. 4 000 packets from the Index Seminum were dispatched to 190 scientific institutions. 364 cartons of cut flowers, amounting to 3 600 kg, were dispatched to various functions and flower shows.

South Africa's exhibit at the 1981 Chelsea Flower Show proved to be the most successful thus far. Not only did our country win the Gold Medal for the fifth year in succession, but for the first time was awarded the coveted Wilkinson Sword Trophy for the best overseas exhibit. About 250 000 people visited the show, and 20 000 publications on South Africa's floral heritage were distributed.

Mr. E.J. van Jaarsveld has discovered two new Aloe species during his expeditions in the Richtersveld. He is compiling a checklist for the Richtersveld.

Regional Gardens

One of the Regional Botanic Gardens, the O.F.S. Botanic Garden in Bloemfontein, co-operates with the University of the O.F.S. in the following projects:

- (a) Grasses of the Orange Free State: Collection and cultivation of all the perennial O.F.S. grasses; and evaluation of their horticultural potential. (Dr. Van Rensburg).
- (b) Trees and Shrubs over 1 m: Collection and cultivation of the trees and shrubs of the O.F.S. and evaluation of their horticultural potential. (Dr. Van Rensburg and dr. Venter).

- (c) Karoo Koppie Project: To ascertain the best method of conservation in protected areas where grazing no longer takes place. (Dr. Van Rensburg and Dr. Venter).
- (d) Tree measuring project: To ascertain the annual growth of O.F.S. trees, and to determine the growing seasons. (Dr. Van Rensburg).
- (e) Water and Swamp Plants of the O.F.S.: Collection and cultivation. (Mr. P. Stegmann).
- (f) Karoo Shrublets: Collection, cultivation, determining horticultural potential, distribution records. (Dr. Van Rensburg and Dr. Venter).

New Regional Garden: Roodepoort

The Roodepoort City Council purchased the Roodepoort Falls property and donated it to the Government for the development of a Transvaal Botanic Garden. In addition, the City Council is donating a sizeable annual grant which should enable the Curator to maintain good progress. The Curator of the O.F.S. Botanic Garden, Mr. Peter Chaplin, has been transferred to Roodepoort. Operations will commence on 1 July 1982.

COMPTON HERBARIUM, KIRSTENBOSCH: During the year three broad fields of operation were vigorously pursued, namely, information services, research and education/public relations.

The large number of specimens loaned to research workers and the continuing high level of botanical enquiries directed at the herbarium staff, were notable features of the year's activities. Apart from Garden's staff and visiting scientists, some 80 persons per month on average called at the herbarium seeking diverse botanical information. Such a consistently high usage of herbarium and library activities underscores the herbarium's key role at Kirstenbosch.

Routine Curatorial Work. An herbarium is in essence a huge data bank capable of providing an enormous volume of diverse information; in our case, the flora of Southern Africa. The quality of that information is dependant on the diligence with which the herbarium is curated or continuously updated. Scanning current literature for name changes, new monographs, revisions, or flora treatments of different genera, assessing the merits of these alterations and then reflecting them in the herbarium by rearranging the material and writing up the sheets, constitute very time-consuming clerical operations. Curating the collections is probably the most important management operation in running an herbarium, yet it is the least spectacular and least understood.

As in previous years, a very considerable proportion of working time was again devoted to curating the collections. Attention was also given to continuing registration and incorporation of the South African Museum herbarium's backlog. The SAM herbarium was in a very poor state of curation when it was taken over by the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa, in 1956. This has necessitated a considerable amount of attention on our part. During the year, 432 SAM sheets were incorporated, consisting of important old collections, mainly of G. Potts, R.A. Dümmer and the Marine Algae of Tyson and Becker.

Accessions: A policy of drastically reducing new accessions has become imperative during the past few years, due to the absence of any further storage space in the present building. Accessions have been reduced to a quarter of the level prevailing a few years back, a situation which will have to continue until new herbarium accommodation becomes available. While this state of affairs is extremely detrimental to the development of the herbarium, it is the only possible course of action we can follow under the present circumstances. Nevertheless, important selected additions of Asclepiadaceae, Amaryllidaceae and Liliaceae were made, and in this regard, exceptionally fine material was received from Karoo Garden, Worcester.

Meanwhile, unmounted herbarium specimens which cannot be mounted and incorporated at present are being accumulated in cardboard cartons which are then stacked in the space between the top of the second layer of cabinets and the ceiling of the existing building. This is a highly undesirable state of affairs as much important new material will remain unavailable to research workers for the foreseeable future. However, it is the only reasonable course of action left to us until the construction of a new herbarium has been completed.

Sheets mounted for the Compton Herbarium:	1 043 (1980)
	1 149 (1981)
	<hr/>
	2 192

Total number of registered specimens in the Compton Herbarium (including SAM sheets)	237 059
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Number of sheets in regional herbaria:

Nelspruit	4 173
Harrismith	1 384
Bloemfontein	711
Betty's Bay	485
Karoo	330
Natal	80

Material on loan: There was a steady demand from both local and overseas research workers for the loan of mounted herbarium specimens. In all, forty-four major loans were dispatched during the years 1980 and 1981, consisting of 4 1000 sheets. The number of loan requests received by an herbarium is a fair indication of its importance to botanical research. In this regard it is clear that the herbarium at Kirstenbosch has in recent years become more widely known and more frequently consulted than at any time in the past.

Loan requests vary in number from year to year but it remains an unfortunate fact that more taxonomic work on our flora appears to be carried on outside South Africa than at home.

Duplicates distributed and received: Named duplicates were exchanged between ourselves and other research institutes studying Southern African flora; chiefly the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria; Missouri Botanical Garden, U.S.A.; Royal Botanic Garden, Kew; and the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm.

Important donations of Rutaceae were received from Dr. I.J.M. Williams, whose isotypes were distributed.

Important collections of S.A. Poaceae were presented by Mr. and Mrs. A.O. Crook.

	<u>1980</u>		<u>1981</u>		
Total number of duplicates distributed	409	+	707	=	1 116
Total number of duplicates received	438	+	296	=	734

Visitors: It is extremely gratifying to find that usage of the herbarium collections continues to increase every year, especially by the staff and post-graduate students of local universities, as well as the Botanical Research Institute and its regional research units.

Overseas visitors were again prominent among researchers who came in person to consult the collections or to make use of the herbarium facilities.

In January 1980, Prof. D. Wiens (University of Utah, U.S.A.) and the Curator, concluded a joint research project on rodent pollination in cryptic geoflorus proteas.

Dr. P. Goldblatt (Missouri Botanic Gardwn, U.S.A.) made two visits; one in January 1980 and the other in August and September 1980 and 1981 in order to continue his research program on Iridaceae.

Other visists of month-long duration were paid by Dr. C. Puff (University of

Vienna), who is working on Rubiaceae and Dr. O.M. Hilliard (University of Natal) and Dr. B.L. Burtt (Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh), who are researching Asteraceae and Apiaceae.

Prof. D. Müller-Doblies and his wife, Dr. U. Müller-Doblies (Technical Univ., Berlin), continued their work on Liliaceae and Amaryllidaceae.

Prof. G. Orshan (Hewbrew University of Jerusalem) commenced work in 1980 at the Compton Herbarium on a study of life forms in flowering plants from Mediterranean climates. Prof. Orshan continued his work at Kirstenbosch in 1981, before extending his studies to other parts of the world. The projects he initiated were continued during 1981 and 1982 by Miss Xenia Kyriacou, a member of the Fynbos Biome Team.

Accommodating the many users, sometimes for periods of as much as three months, makes tremendous demands on the staff's time and on the limited working space. However, this contact between other researchers is the very life blood of our existence, while sustained and increasing use of the collections by professional botanists ensures the National Botanic Garden's continued prestige, nationally and internationally.

Shorter visits of less than one month's duration were made by Mr. C. Stirton, Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria (Fabaceae); Mrs. A.A. Mauve, Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria (Liliaceae); Mr. and Mrs. A.O. Crook (Poaceae); Dr. P. Debbert, University of München (Droseraceae); Dr. P. Cribb, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Orchidaceae) and Dr. D.K. Bailey, University of Arizona (Widdringtonia).

Swedish exchange students: To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fries-Weimarck-Norlindh Expedition to Southern Africa, in 1930, which re-established Swedish botanical contact with South Africa, dormant since the time of Thunberg, the Department of National Education established two student exchange scholarships. The object of these scholarships is to promote continued links between Swedish and South African botanists, by sending a South African botanist to Sweden and a Swedish botanist to South Africa.

Mr. P-O. Karis and Miss B. Nilsson, both students of Prof. Bertil Nordenstam, were jointly awarded one of the scholarships and have been based at the Compton Herbarium for a period of six months. Mr. Karis is completing a revision of Metalasia and Miss Nilsson is working on Wachendorfia. They were stationed at Kirstenbosch from September 1980 until March 1981. The Compton Herbarium was both pleased and proud to host these two post-graduate students and to assist them in their work.

A growing awareness of the importance and usefulness of the herbarium is becoming more apparent every year. Indeed, its importance is such that even difficult, cramped working conditions did not deter an increasing number of scientists, both foreign and local, from making personal visits to consult the collections, as well as post-graduate students from various universities. As most of the distinguished visitors were from herbaria or universities in Western Europe and North America, which, traditionally, have long been centres of research on the Southern African flora, the improvement and strengthening of contacts and co-operation between these centres and ourselves was actively developed, since such liaison is clearly of prime importance to the interests of the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa. Moreover, the intellectual stimulus provided by these visitors is of great benefit in keeping abreast of current advances in taxonomic botany.

Public Relations: There has been a growing demand for the staff to participate in public relations and educationally orientated programs. Much time was devoted to these activities. Dr. Rourke gave lectures to several specialist groups including the South African Protea Producers and Exporters Association.

A visit to the Herbarium to see behind the scenes was arranged at the request of Dame '80, and adult education group; while a display of botanical books was staged for the Congress of the S.A. Bibliophiles in September 1981.

Mrs. C. Labuschagne conducted numerous plant identification courses for the S.A. Navy Leadership School and the S.A. Airforce Coastal Patrol Squadron. She also participated as an official delegate to the Waterblommetjie Symposium at Stellenbosch, contributing a paper on the historical aspects of the consumption of Aponogeton distachyos. During the year she gave well over a dozen lectures to various groups and societies, on subjects ranging from veldkos to alien plants. Mrs. Labuschagne also served as Editor of Vygie, a quarterly children's supplement to Veld & Flora.

Assistance in the naming of specimen exhibits was given to the Darling, Caledon and Hermanus wild flower shows, as well as the Botanical Society's show at Kirstenbosch.

The Curator, Dr. J.P. Rourke, participated in a lecture-symposium organised by the South African Association of Botanists at U.C.T., entitled "Evolution, Geography and the past".

Weekend visits to see behind the scenes in the Compton Herbarium were arranged for the Aloe and Succulent Society, and also for 35 visiting Americans belonging

to the Pacific Horticultural Foundation under the leadership of Prof. Robert Ornduff, of the University of California.

The herbarium contributed to an exhibition at the University of Cape Town, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of C.L. Leipoldt's birth, by loaning books, specimens and other archival material relevant to Leipoldt's work as an amateur botanist.

A display of flora native to the Kirstenbosch estate and an exhibition of current work being undertaken at the herbarium, was staged in the lecture hall in November 1980, when the National Botanic Gardens hosted the Annual General Meeting of the S.A. Association of Botanists (Western Cape Branch). In addition, lectures, talks and demonstrations on a variety of botanical topics were given to specialist societies.

Another project in which the herbarium has been intimately involved during the past few years is Mrs. A. Moriarty's illustrated guide to the flora of the Outshoorn, George and Tzitzikama regions. The identifications of some 500 voucher specimens for the illustrations were largely undertaken by Miss D.A. Snijman, who has assisted Mrs. Moriarty since the book's inception. This work is now effectively complete and has just been published by the Botanical Society.

The amount of time spent on public relations/educational activities during the period 1980-1981 has been considerable. Public demand for such services has been increasing noticeably and consequently much of the burden of shouldering these responsibilities has fallen on the herbarium. It is sincerely hoped that an adequately staffed education department will soon be established so that the herbarium can be relieved of these tasks that do not fall strictly within the brief of a taxonomic research institute.

Identification service: The identification of plant material is one of the important services provided by the herbarium. Enquiries are received chiefly from the Department of Forestry, Cape Provincial Nature Conservation Department and the Cape Town City Council's Parks Department. As this is a very time-consuming service to provide, attempts are continuously made to limit the number of enquiries. Nevertheless, preference is always given to those government, provincial and local authorities whose activities are similar to our own.

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	
Number of specimens identified for the general public	2629	+ 2005	= 4634
Number of specimens identified for Kirstenbosch Gardens	361	+ 650	= 1011

Botanical Art: A complete inventory of the herbarium's holdings of botanical art (water-colours and line drawings) has now been completed. The catalogue was prepared at the request of the S.A. National Gallery and includes maps and still-life works featuring S.A. flora.

At the herbarium's contribution to the Republic Festival in 1981, an exhibition of botanical art was staged in the lecture hall, eliciting considerable interest. Several suggestions were received regarding the publication of some of our older historically interesting works. The possibility of reproducing these works, e.g. those of Emily Thwaites, in a portfolio, may well be worth investigating in the future.

Congresses: Mrs. P. Fairall represented the herbarium at the annual congress of the South African Association of Botanists in Port Elizabeth. In August 1981, Dr. Rourke attended the International Congress of Botanic Gardens, in Canberra, Australia, followed by the 13th International Botanical Congress in Sydney.

Miss D. Snijman and Mrs. C.E. Labuschagne attended the A.E.T.F.A.T. Congress in Pretoria in January 1982.

Research and Publications: Taxonomic research was concentrated on the families Amaryllidaceae, Proteaceae and Asteraceae, while in the floristic field a co-operative venture between ourselves and the Missouri Botanic Garden to compile an annotated enumeration of the species occurring within the Cape floristic region, made excellent progress.

The results of several research projects of previous years were brought to finality and published. These included a popular, fully illustrated, account of the genus Protea, which appeared in 1980 in both English and Afrikaans editions, and Paterson's Cape Travels, of which Dr. Rourke was co-editor with Prof. V.S. Forbes.

Mrs. P. Fairall's (Bond) revision of Thaminophyllum was completed and for the remainder of the year she continued to make headway on the Descriptive Catalogue of the Angiosperm flora of the winter rainfall region.

Miss D.A. Snijman undertook several field excursions in pursuance of her work on Haemanthus. Good material of several undescribed species was obtained. She has now reached the stage where a clearer picture has emerged of the number of taxa involved in Haemanthus and consequently attention is now being given to typification and nomenclatural problems. Plates and accompanying accounts of nine new species have been prepared for publication.

In May and June 1981 she undertook a three-week visit to the British Museum (Natural History), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, to examine type material. As a result of this work, most of the nomenclatural problems have been cleared up. Seven species were illustrated in full colour by Mrs. E. Ward-Hillhorst and numerous line drawings were completed. Highly successful field excursions to Namaqualand and the Eastern Cape, resulted in the collection of several hitherto undescribed species.

Dr. Rourke largely completed his work on the genus Mimetes. Publication of this revision in conventional form and as a fully illustrated monograph with colour plates by Thalia Lincoln, is expected soon. A prospectus is available.

Mrs. Fairall made tremendous strides with her compilation of a Catalogue of the Cape Flora, in collaboration with Dr. P. Goldblatt. She also commenced work on a revision of Oldenburgia, a small distinctive genus of the Asteraceae.

Three new Haworthia species were described and published by Mr. M.B. Bayer, Curator of the Karoo Botanic Garden, Worcester.

Journal of S.A. Botany: Vols. 46 (1980) and 47 (1981).

Vol. 46 was dedicated in memory of Robert Harold Compton (6-8-1886 — 11-7-1979) M.A. (Cantab.), D.Sc. (Cape Town), F.R.S.S. Af., previous director of the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa and founder of the Compton Herbarium.

Vol. 47 was dedicated to John Frederick Vicars Phillips (1899-) D.Sc. (Edin.), F.R.S.E., F.R.S. Afr., F.W.A.

Noteworthy articles published included revisions of the following genera:

Rutaceae: Coleonema, Euchaetis, Macrostylis, Phyllosma, Sheilantha

Orchidaceae: Schizochilus, Brownleea, Schizodium

Asteraceae: Thaminophyllum

Amaranthaceae: Amaranthus

Floristic descriptions and vegetation surveys of the following were published:

The Alien Vegetation of the Cape Peninsula	-	(D. McLachlan et al)
Hluhluwe Game Reserve	-	(B.H. Downing)
Edith Stephens Reserve, Cape Flats	-	(B. Campbell et al)
Gough Island (Pteridophytes)	-	(J.P. Roux)
Northern Kruger National Park	-	(N. van Rooyen et al)
The Flora of Bergvliet	-	(J.P. Rourke et al)

Vol. 47 of the Journal of South African Botany consisted of 839 pages - the thickest volume to date.

Directorship: With the impending retirement of the present Director, Prof. H.B. Rycroft, the Trustees of the National Botanic Gardens advertised the post locally and overseas. The applications close at the end of September. The advertisement stated that the incumbent will be charged with guiding specialist subordinates in the fields of botanical science, horticulture, education and administration. Prime considerations are, therefore, that the incumbent have outstanding academic capabilities allied with good managerial and communication skills. Fluency in English is a prerequisite and a working understanding of Afrikaans after one year would be required. The incumbent will also, ex officio, be the Harold Pearson Professor of Botany at the University of Cape Town where he will have full professorial status and be a member of the Senate.

Vacancies: The following have recently been advertised for Kirstenbosch (Compton Herbarium):-

Botanical Assistant for mounting of specimens and curatorial work.

Qualifications: minimum Std. 8. Salary: R2 886 - 5 706 p.a.

Professional/Senior Professional Officer for taxonomic research and curatorial work ($\frac{1}{3}$ of time). Qualifications: B.Sc. (Hons.) minimum, preferably M.Sc. in taxonomy with herbarium experience. Salary: R10 062 . 15 450 p.a.

HAROLD COMPTON PRIZE: In terms of the Last Will and Testament of Prof. Robert Harold Compton, the following disposition was made by him in favour of the National Botanic Gardens at Kirstenbosch:-

"To the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa, Kirstenbosch, Cape, R3 000,00, to be paid to and invested by the Trustees of that Institution - the income to be used as an annual prize to be awarded to the author/s of the best contribution to botanical science, published in the preceding year, under the following conditions:

- (i) The publication may be made in South Africa or elsewhere.
- (ii) The work shall concern the South African flora, preference being given, other things being equal, to work on the flora of the South-Western Botanical Region, especially to its taxonomy.
- (iii) Adjudication to be by a Committee consisting of the Director of the National Botanic Gardens, the Curator of the Compton Herbarium, Kirstenbosch, and the Harry Bolus Professor of Botany in the University of Cape Town, with power to consult other authorities and accept their advice, and provided that their advice, and provided that any member of the Committee may recuse himself

from attendance, in which case his place is to be taken by the Chairman of Trustees of the Gardens.

(iv) The capital sum is to be invested from time to time in securities determined by the Trustees.

(v) The prize is to consist of 90% (ninety percent) of the income of the preceding year, the other 10% (ten percent) to be added to the capital. If no award is made in any year, the whole income is to be added to the capital.

(vi) The prize is to be known as the HAROLD COMPTON PRIZE.

The first recipient of the Harold Compton prize was Dr. Peter Goldblatt of the Missouri Botanic Garden. It was awarded to him for his paper entitled "The Redefinition of Homeria and Moraea (Iridaceae) in the light of biosystematic data, with Rheome gen. nov." published in Botaniska Notiser Vol. 133, 1980.

The second recipient of this prize (announced recently) is Dr. H.P. Linder of the Botanical Research Institute for his publication "Taxonomic Studies on the Disinae. III. A revision of Disa Berg. (excluding sect. Micranthae Lind.)" published in the Contributions from the Bolus Herbarium No. 9, 9th October 1981. Dr. Linder is currently the South African Liaison Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where he is continuing his recently begun research on the Southern African Restionaceae towards a revision of the family for the Flora of Southern Africa.

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR NATURAL SCIENTISTS AND REGISTRATION OF BOTANISTS:

The Natural Scientists Act was passed by Parliament on March 15, 1982 and is now possible to proceed with the South African Council for Natural Scientists (SACNAS) recently established. The Botanists of South Africa represent an important part of the South African Scientific community. For this reason and after the poll held in 1976, SAAB has given its full support for this development,

With this Act the way is opened for South African Scientists and thus also Botanists, to receive the recognition they deserve. The advantages which result from a higher professional status are far-reaching. However, to utilize the potential advantages which could materialize for SAAB members as a result of this Act, SACNAS must be supported by every SAAB member. This can only be done if a member, when called for, registers with SACNAS as a professional Botanist.

SOUTH AFRICAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Two SAAB members are to be honoured by the South African Biological Society at its Annual General Meeting in November. Dr. L.E.W. Codd, founder member and first President of SAAB and a former Director of the Botanical Research Institute, is to be awarded the Senior Captain Scott Memorial Medal for his distinguished services to Botany. This medal is awarded annually to any biologist in southern Africa who has rendered outstanding service in his field of activity.

The Junior Captain Scott Memorial Medal is to be awarded to Miss Alice P. Baxter for her M.Sc. thesis entitled "A study of the morphology and taxonomy of certain South African species of Colletotrichum Corda". The Junior Captain Scott Medal is awarded annually for the best M.Sc. thesis presented at a South African university over a two-year period alternatively for the master's degree in either Botany (including Palaeobotany) or Zoology (including Palaeozoology). This year is the turn for the Botany award.

SAAB CONGRESS 1983: Members are reminded that the 1983 Congress is being held from 17th - 21st January in the new Life Sciences Building of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. The opening address at the Congress will be delivered by Dr. C.F. Garbers, President of the C.S.I.R. and the keynote address on Plant Population Biology by Prof. J.L. Harper of the University College of North Wales, Bangor .

The SAAB AGM will be held from 16.00 to 1700 hrs. on Friday 21st and will be followed in the evening by the SAAB Banquet at which the guest speaker will be Mr. James Clarke (Deputy Editor, The Star).

The Post-congress Tour departs at 06.00 on Saturday 22nd. The tour will cover parts of the Western Transvaal with two nights being spent at Thabazimbi and one night at Sun City. Contact: Mrs. M. Wolfson, Department of Botany, University of the Witwatersrand, Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg, 2001.

VACANCIES, POSTS ADVERTISED: Some recent advertisements in South African newspapers have been noted as follows:-

University of Stellenbosch, Senior Lecturer or Lecturer in Botany: The field of interest for the post is open. For the Senior Lecturer the minimum qualification is a doctorate and the salary scale R16 577 - 24 045 p.a. For the Lecturer the minimum qualification is an N.Sc. and the salary scale is R12 657 - 22 173. Closing date for applications is unfortunately 29 October (two weeks after the advertisement!).

Potchefstroomse Universiteit, Lektoraat/Junior Lektoraat in Plantkunde: Twee poste is geadverteer met amper dieselfde vereistes nl. (1) B.Sc. met Plantkunde as hoofvak en tweede hoofvak verkieslik Bodemkunde, Geologie of Fisiese Geografie en 'n Hons. B.Sc. of M.Sc. in Plantekologie sal 'n aanbeveling wees; (2) B.Sc. met Bodemkunde/Grondkunde en Geologie, Geografie of Fisika as hoofvakke en ondervinding en/of nagraadse opleiding sal 'n aanbeveling wees.

Senior Lektoraat/Lektoraat: M.Sc. met Plantekologie as spesialisering is 'n vereiste met ervaring van doseerwerk en navorsing in Ekofisiologie. Vir al die poste is die sluitingsdatum vir aansoeke 1 November 1982 en die diensaanvaarding 1 Januarie 1983. Die normale vereistes en salarisskale is dieselfde as dié van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

TREE OF THE YEAR 1982: The Coral Tree formerly Kaffirboom, Erythrina lysistemon, was chosen as the 1982 Tree. A pamphlet describing and illustrating all the South African species of Erythrina is available free of charge from the Directorate of Forestry, Department of Environment Affairs, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001. The colourful photographs and detailed information will be very useful to teachers, children of all ages and anyone interested in our trees.

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